

OTTERSHAW & BROX

THIS WALK TAKES YOU PARTLY THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF OTTERSHAW AND PARTLY THROUGH THE WOODLANDS & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES SURROUNDING THIS AREA. THE START IS AT THE OTTERSHAW MEMORIAL FIELD IN FOXHILLS ROAD (MAP REF. 019642). THERE ARE TOILETS AND CAR PARKING HERE.

From the car park by the children's playground cross the playing fields and enter the woodland, containing a good mixture of native woodland including holly, silver birch, rowan, and oak. Continue up Ether Hill and turn left at the end of the fencing to continue along the footpath. The path meanders through an area of mature Scots pine until reaching a track, which runs alongside a tree plantation. After 200 metres the path turns left. Follow along for 400 metres between the other side of the plantation on the left, and a golf course on the right. At the end of the track, there are some fine mature beech and oaks just before the route emerges at Chobham Road.

Cross the road and head straight on down the public footpath opposite, known as Cross Lane. 200 metres along the track there is a small wooden gate into the public open space at Ottershaw Chase. This is a mature area of woodland, consisting of mainly sweet chestnut, and well worth exploring. Three victims of the 1987 storms can be seen on the right of Cross Lane. Continue along the track reaching three posts where the track joins a tarmac road. The road passes a pair of ornate metal gates on the right, another entrance to Ottershaw Chase. The lane leads to Guildford Road emerging at the side of Christ Church, a large Victorian church with a typical Surrey style spire.

Turn right and cross Guildford Road at the top of the hill. Enter the car park and cross it to the footpath signs on the right. Go through the gap and turn left down public footpath no. 61 (c). This takes you down the hill through the area of woodland known as Timber Hill. Although this area of woodland is less mature than in Ottershaw Chase, but there are some attractive semi-mature specimens. At the bottom of the hill the path joins footpath no. 49, turn right here and follow path 31 between the fences to Brox Road.

Cross Brox Road and turn right. On your right after about 60 metres is the Castle Public House, a fine refreshment stop! Opposite is Brox Lane, with a thatched cottage on the corner. Walk down Brox Lane, which bends to the left and the right before straightening out.

On the left hand side of the track is a private fishing lake where herons can often be spotted. A little way past this, the road bears right and access for the footpath is through a gate. The road then bends to the left passing through farmland on either side where herbs are grown. There are three farms in this area, Holly Bush, Bousley Rise and Rodwell Farm. Pass Rose Park Caravan Park on your right hand side and continue to Rowtown. At the main road turn left and walk uphill towards the Cricketers Public House, another refreshment opportunity. The public footpath is on the left-hand side just before reaching the pub down an unmade track. Take the right hand fork, marked with a 'No Horses' sign and a footpath sign, between the hedges, which include a line of hornbeam, and follow this to the cross path junction. Go straight ahead towards the wood. This is Hare Hill Open Space. Turn left at the junction through the hornbeam avenue, emerging into Spratts Lane.

Turn right here and after 20 metres turn left down the public footpath into Spratts Alley. Turn right on reaching Slade Road, and left along Murray Road. At 100 and 102 Murray Road, cross the road and go through a gap in the hedge. Climb over a stile and follow the footpath up the hill to the woodland at the top, crossing over a high stile on the way. Go over the stile to the left of the woodland and follow the footpath down to the roundabout at the end of St Peter's Way.

Cross the A320 Guildford Road with great care, and enter Homewood Park via the horse route just by the roundabout. After 100 metres, join the footpath and cross over the bridge heading towards the chimney in the distance. Cross over the road up to Hillswood Business Park and keep following the path until the T-junction. Turn left and follow the path around the park, admiring the fine view of Botleys Mansion. Ignore the right fork to the car park, joining

the horse route as it crosses the main drive to the mansion house. Follow the horse route through the trees until it emerges along Stonehill Road. Cross the road with care, turn left and walk along the road for approximately 500 metres. Turn first left down Foxhills Road to return to Ottershaw Memorial Field on your right.

